

"A compelling study in culture clash, with spectacular scenery to boot"

Variety

BLINDSIGHT

See the world in a whole new light.

"A brilliant film,
ravishingly photographed"

Time Out London

"Inspiring and
fascinating"

National Post

ROBSON ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS 'BLINDSIGHT'
FEATURING SABRIYE TENBERKEN ERIK WEIHENMAYER
EDITED BY SEBASTIAN DUTHY ORIGINAL MUSIC BY NITIN SAWHNEY
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PETR CIKHART EXECUTIVE PRODUCER STEVEN HAFT
PRODUCED BY SYBIL ROBSON ORR DIRECTED BY LUCY WALKER

www.blindsightthemovie.com

ROBSON

BLINDSIGHT

PRESS QUOTE SHEET

Winner – Audience Award for Best Film

Berlin Film Festival – Panorama 2007

Winner – Audience Award for Best Documentary

AFI Film Festival 2006 (Los Angeles)

Winner – Audience Award for Best Documentary

Palm Springs Film Festival 2007

Nominated for Best Documentary –

British Independent Film Awards 2006

Academy Award 2007 Shortlisted - Best Documentary

BLINDSIGHT

PRESS QUOTE SHEET

"A GRIPPING DOCUMENTARY PREMIERED THIS WEEK TO A STANDING OVATION..." - Reuters

"FUNNY, TOUCHING AND GORGEOUS" - Now (Toronto)

"... HAILS FROM THE INSPIRATIONAL SCHOOL OF FILMMAKING, AND GRADUATES WITH HONORS" - Globe & Mail (Canada)

"INSPIRING AND FASCINATING" - National Post (Canada)

"BLINDSIGHT CONTAINS A TWIST ENDING THAT MAKES IT AS SURPRISING AS ANY FICTIONAL VENTURE. A MUST SEE" - Cinema Eye

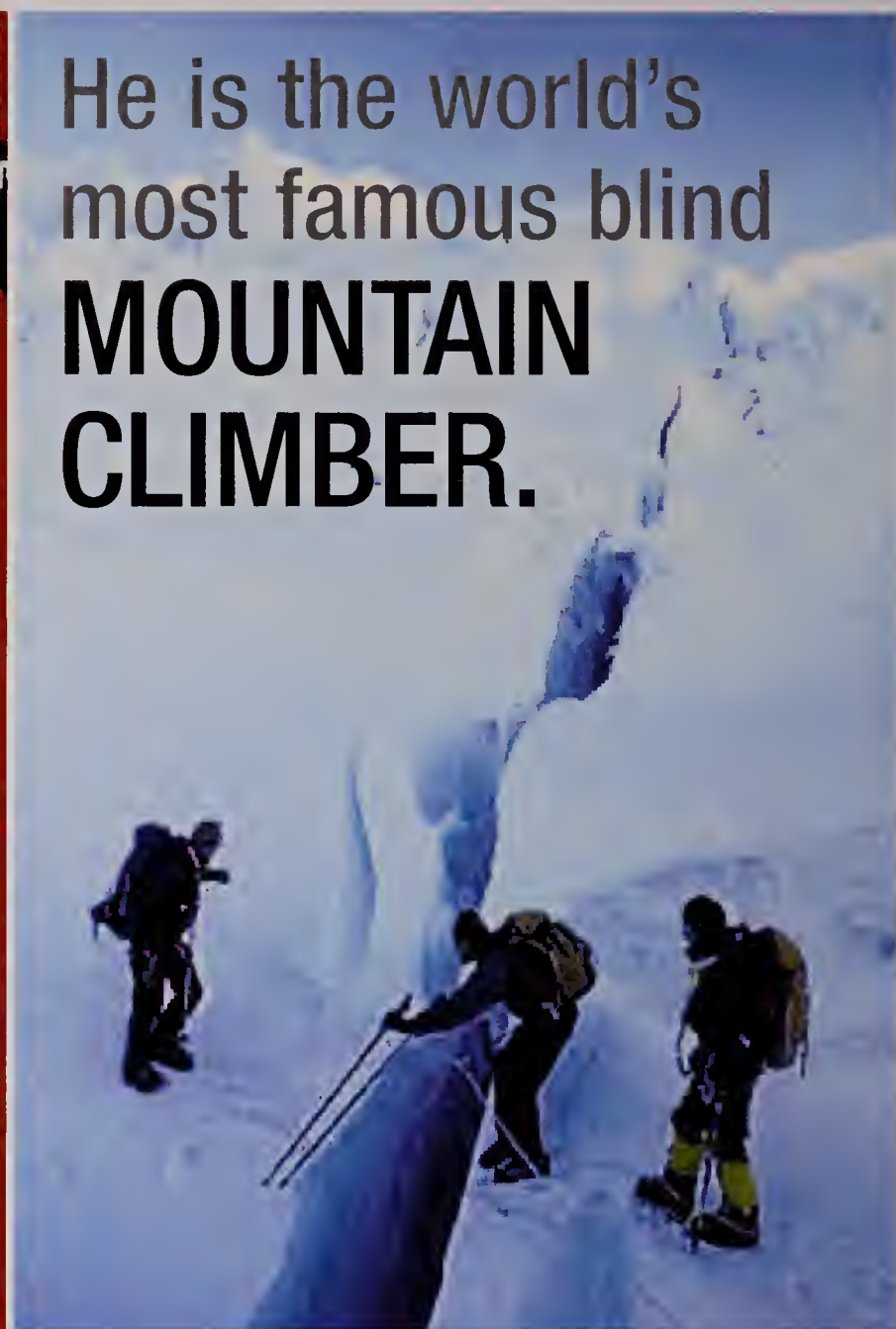
"INTELLIGENTLY QUESTIONS OUR VALUES OF HEROISM, COMMUNITY AND SUCCESS" - Eye Weekly (Toronto)

"BE ASSURED THAT BLINDSIGHT IS THIS YEAR'S MURDERBALL: AN UNCONVENTIONAL, OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC DOCUMENTARY THAT INSPIRES NEW FAITH IN HUMAN POTENTIAL" - CBC (Canada)

"EASTERN AND WESTERN PHILOSOPHIES ABOUT THE NATURE OF SUCCESS AND FAILURE CLASH TO AMUSING AND MOVING EFFECT" - The Guardian (London)



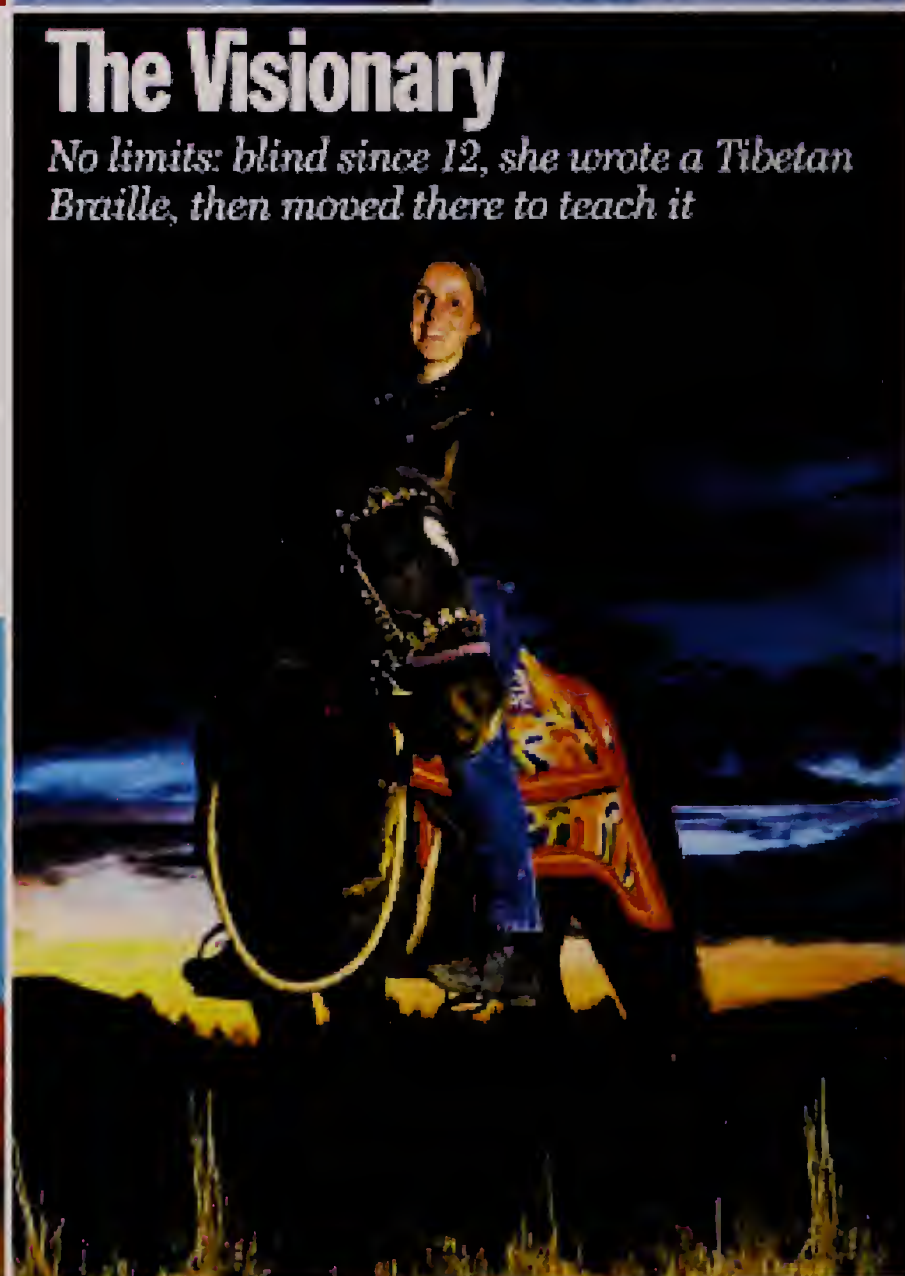
He is the world's
most famous blind
**MOUNTAIN
CLIMBER.**



She is the world's
most famous
**TRAILBLAZER
FOR THE BLIND.**

The Visionary

No limits: blind since 12, she wrote a Tibetan Braille, then moved there to teach it



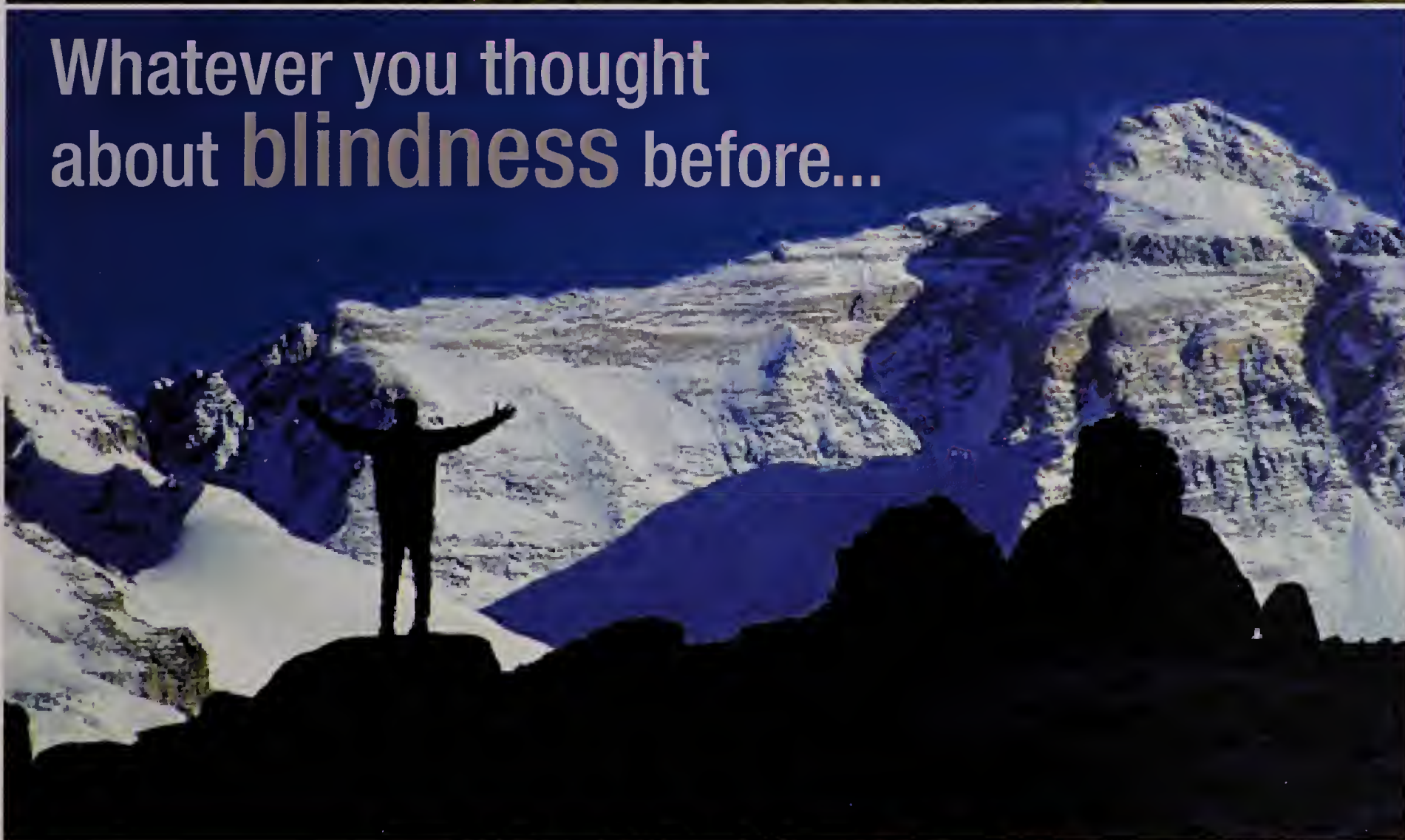
TWO BLIND PEOPLE.

ONE CLEAR VISION.

Redefining the impossible.



Whatever you thought
about **blindness** before...

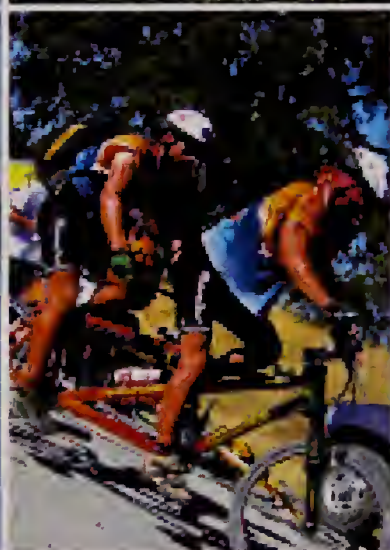


BLINDSIGHT

Opens your eyes to a whole new world of possibilities.



Billboard on Broadway at 41st in NYC



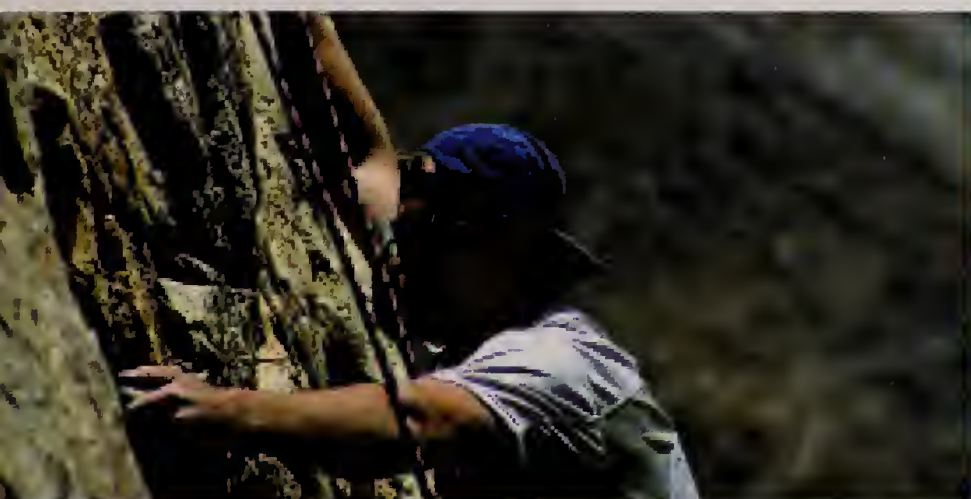
ERIK WEIHENMAYER

Erik Weihenmayer's goal in life is to shatter illusions of what the world thinks is impossible. The result is extraordinary admiration for him and a radical re-evaluation of one's own boundaries.

As the first blind man ever to summit Mount Everest, Erik won the attention of worldwide press including the cover of Time®. One year later, standing on the top of Mount Kosciuszko in Australia, Erik completed his 7-year quest to climb the Seven Summits, the highest mountains on each of the seven continents, joining only 150 mountaineers ever to do so, all of them sighted.

Shortly after losing his sight at the age of twelve, Erik also lost his mother in a tragic car accident. In an effort to strengthen the family during this difficult time, Erik's father, an ex-Marine, took his three teenage sons on climbing trips to far reaches of the globe including South America, India and Nepal. While awkward at first, Erik persevered and has emerged today as one of the most exciting and respected athletes in the world. In addition to climbing, Erik is also an acrobatic skydiver, long distance cyclist, skier, para-glider and marathon runner.

Erik has won a wide variety of prestigious awards and has been responsible for raising millions of dollars for blind organisations and other worthy causes in the United States and around the world. In a recent poll, Erik was named as one of the 20 most inspirational people in America.



BLINDSIGHT



Time Magazine Hero of the Year



Knighthood of the Netherlands Medal



Albert Schweitzer Award



Preis der Norgall Stiftung Award



Bambi Award



Christophorus Award

BLINDSIGHT

SABRIYE TENBERKEN “Flower that Brings Good Luck”

Blind since the age of 12, Sabriye was raised with the belief that blindness was more a personality trait than a disability. The result is a woman who has transformed attitudes about the blind in some of the most far-reaching places on the planet.

Sabriye decided to study Tibetology at Bonn University after a curator allowed her to touch Tibetan artifacts in a travelling exhibition. After enrolling, she soon discovered there was no Braille text for the Tibetan language, so she created one herself in order to continue her studies. She learned that high altitude and sun exposure in Tibet cause twice as much blindness per capita as the global average, making the need for Braille all the more vital.

Determined to share the Braille text with the people of Tibet, she was initially met with hesitation from the Chinese authorities because of her blindness and the difficulties they thought she would experience in Tibet. Most Tibetans believe that blind people are possessed by demons or have done something horribly wrong in their past life. Sabriye persevered, travelling to Lhasa in 1997. She found a local Tibetan woman to accompany her on horseback through the frozen Himalayas to find blind kids to attend a school she was setting up for them. She found children who had been shunned by their parents, spurned by their villages, hidden away and tied to beds in dark rooms for years, some of them had never been taught to walk.

During these travels, Sabriye met Paul Kronenberg, her partner both personally and professionally, with whom she established the first school for the blind in Tibet and their organisation Braille Without Borders. Their groundbreaking work has been recognised internationally as a model for schools for the visually impaired in developing countries. The children are taught how to read, write and speak in three languages; Tibetan, Chinese and English and are given the tools needed for blind people to live independently in a sighted world. After 9 years, the first of her students are graduating, establishing businesses and becoming the principal breadwinners for their families.

Governments around the world have invited them to establish their trademark program in their own countries. They are establishing a new project in Kerala, India where they are training both sighted and blind people to fulfil that need. Sabriye's work has won worldwide recognition including Time Magazine's 2004 “Hero of the Year Awards” in both Europe and Asia. In 2005, she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, named Young Global Leader at the World Economic Forum, cited as Oprah's personal choice on her show “Eight Women Oprah Wants You To Know,” and in August of 2006 was awarded two Mother Teresa Awards, one for herself, the other for Braille Without Borders. This is the only time the same person has been recognised twice in the same year.



BLINDSIGHT

The Summary

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Tibetan Himalayas, BLINDSIGHT is a gripping feature documentary, about six blind Tibetan teenagers whose lives are about to change. They have been rejected by a culture that considers them to be possessed by demons and have overcome enormous odds, helped hugely by attending a special school for the blind in Lhasa, set up by the inspirational blind trailblazer Sabriye Tenberken.

Erik Weißenmayer the only blind man to summit Mount Everest, makes his imprint on the world through extraordinary physical accomplishments. Sabriye Tenberken takes the intellectual approach through education. Both of them have spent their adult lives achieving what most people would think impossible. Erik and Sabriye both went blind at the age of 12, he in America, she in Germany. Until 2004, they had never met.

Erik's summit of Everest captured the imagination of Sabriye and her students. Determined to find out how he did it, Sabriye wrote to Erik explaining the hardships her kids had endured and their fascination with him. She invited him to visit and Erik accepted. But rather than just speak to the school, Erik brought his world-class Everest climbing team to Tibet so six chosen students could learn how to climb blind like him.

One of them is Tashi. His father sold him to a couple who took him to Lhasa and threw him on the streets to beg when he was 10 years old. After years of silence about his past, Tashi decided to find his family. We follow him in the search for his home to a remote region of southern China and watch first-hand as he confronts the father who abandoned him eight years before. BLINDSIGHT grips you with the suspense of whether Tashi's deep scars will prevent him or propel him to his goal of making the summit with his hero Erik.

BLINDSIGHT chronicles the extraordinary adventure of a death-defying three week expedition up Lhakpa Ri, a dramatic 23,000 foot peak which rises symbolically and spectacularly beside Mount Everest.

BLINDSIGHT weaves the compelling life stories of students Kyila, Sonam Bhuntso, Tashi, Gyenshen, Dachung and Tenzin with this intense mountain drama into a riveting tapestry.

www.touchthetop.com

www.braillewithoutborders.com

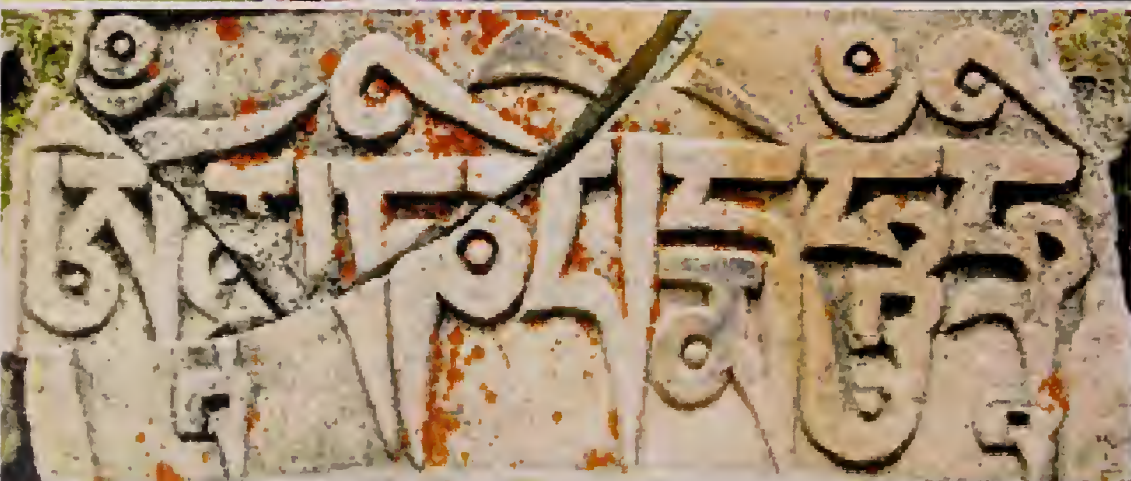
www.blindsightmovie.com



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The Team

SYBIL ROBSON ORR, PRODUCER

After beginning her career in the news business as a reporter and television anchor at network affiliates in the US and ABC News in Paris, Sybil Robson Orr launched a nationally syndicated consumer program for Paramount Pictures. Following a producer's deal at Universal Studios and a stint in sub-Saharan Africa shooting documentaries on the wars for independence, she established her own multi-media entertainment company, Robson Entertainment. She develops, produces and finances motion pictures, television programs and documentaries from offices in Los Angeles and London.

STEVEN HAFT, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

New York-based Haft Entertainment has produced more than thirty films including "Dead Poets Society", "Emma" and "The Singing Detective." His films have generated seven Academy Award® nominations and won the Oscar® for Best Screenplay and Musical Score. They have also generated eight Emmy nominations, including Best Movie for Television. He is a past winner of the British Academy Award (BAFTA), the Italian Donatello and The Peabody, and nominee for the Golden Globe and French Cesar.

LUCY WALKER, DIRECTOR

Lucy grew up in London, England, she won a Fulbright Scholarship to attend NYU's Graduate Film Program at Tisch School of the Arts, where she won various awards and received an MFA. Lucy's directing credits include music videos, award-winning short films (ONE TWO THREE, funded by Warner Brothers, was cited as "Best of the Festival" at Edinburgh), Nickelodeon's Blue's Clues, for which she was nominated for two Emmys for Outstanding Directing and Devil's Playground, the much acclaimed feature documentary about Amish teenagers.

NITIN SAWHNEY, COMPOSER

Firmly established as a world-class songwriter, DJ, and composer, Sawhney is widely regarded as one of the most versatile musicians in the world. He has released 7 award-winning albums and has written or produced for Sir Paul McCartney, Sting, Will Young, and Sinéad O'Connor. He has scored over 30 films, including Mira Nair's "The Namesake," and composed for the London Symphony Orchestra, The Philharmonia, and the Metropole Orchestra.

PETR CIKHART

DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

When covering the war in Chechnya for Czech TV at the age of 19, Petr Cikhart was arrested and held hostage for two days by Russian soldiers. It was his first field shoot, and he was hooked. For the last eight years he has worked as a high adventure photographer on various projects including the first two seasons of National Geographic's critically acclaimed series Be the Creature; Crisis Zone: Doctors Without Borders; Award-winning television series such as The Amazing Race, and feature-length documentaries Farmingville and Gangs: Escaping The Life.

For more information check out PETRCIKHARTFILMS.COM

KEITH PARTRIDGE, MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Keith Partridge shot the spectacular and dramatic climbing footage for the BAFTA award winning film "Touching the Void" and has been involved in over 50 other climbing and adventure films. In 2004 he received the prestigious 'Camera Extreme Award' at the International Explorer's Festival.

Check out Keith's website: www.adventurecamera.co.uk

SEBASTIAN DUTHY, EDITOR

Sebastian has more than fifteen years experience editing in London's film industry. Beginning his career in commercials he moved on to edit music videos for the likes of Missy Elliot and M.O.P. For the last six years he has cut documentaries and drama, working on films such as the BAFTA nominated Dad's Dead. He is currently working as a writer/director for film and TV.

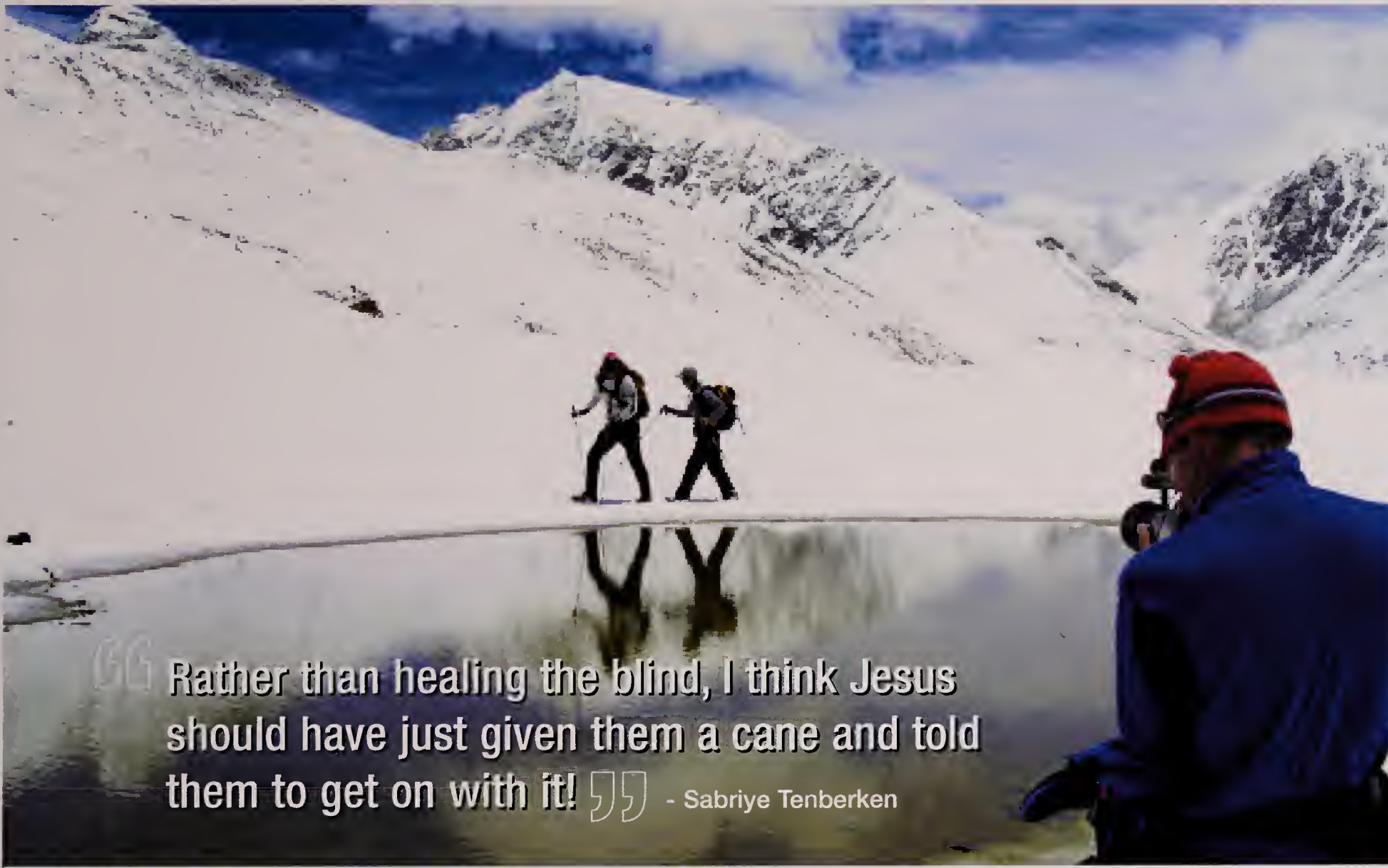


“ If we can get one person to the summit then everyone succeeds ”
- Erik Weißenmayer

“ Many Tibetans believe blind people are possessed by demons. ”
- Sabriye Tenberken



BLINDSIGHT



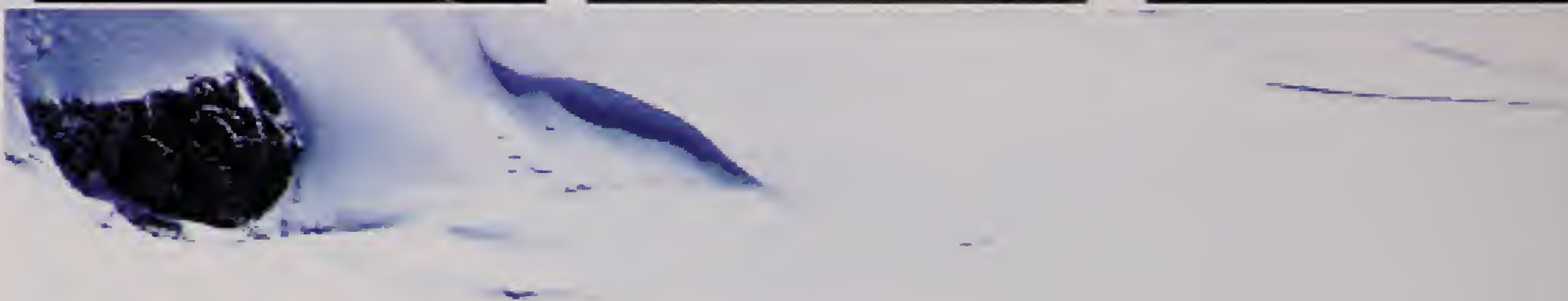
“ Rather than healing the blind, I think Jesus should have just given them a cane and told them to get on with it! ” - Sabriye Tenberken



“ I wrote my name in the ice to tell this mountain I will be back again. ”

- Tenzin





“ A lot of people say I can't do it because I'm blind, or I have red hair, or my feet are too big. Get the right team around you, don't set boundaries and go for it. ”

- Sabriye Tenberken



BLINDSIGHT



TASHI “Lucky”

95

When I was nine my father sold me to a Chinese couple, who took me to Lhasa and made me beg for them. If I didn't make enough they beat me up, until one day I ran away.

- Tashi

“That's Everest, Erik's mountain and that's Lhakpa Ri, Tashi's mountain.”

- Tashi



Tashi's life is like a Charles Dickens story.

- Sabriye Tenberken

SONAM BHUMTSO

“One Hundred Thousand Beautiful Lakes”



We may be blind but we can do everything!

- Sonam Bhumtso

The High Lama says the evil spirit in the fish made the girl go blind.

- Sonam Bhumtso's father



BLINDSIGHT



GYENSHEN “Victory”

When he was little he was a normal child and the cleverest of all. Now he has gone to waste. Stuck with the serpent's curse. What could we do but cry.

- Gyenshen's Mother



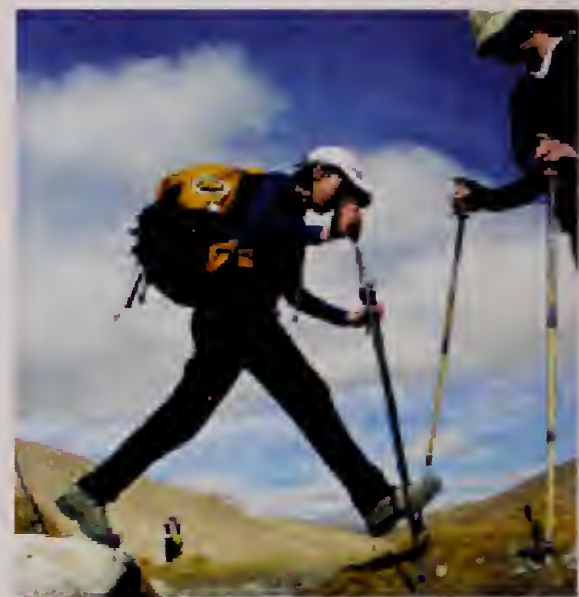
I want to prove to the world what I can do.

- Gyenshen

KYILA “Happy”

My Aunt told me I would be better off dead than blind.

- Kyila



Sabriye taught me how to "move my brain." I now have the confidence to run the blind school for Sabriye.

- Kyila



BLINDSIGHT



TENZIN “Keeper of Buddha’s Teachings”



Climbing Lhakpa Ri? I never thought I would get beyond Lhasa. Now I believe I can do anything.

- Tenzin

“Don’t go any further or you’ll fall! A pee could cost you your life!”

- Tenzin



DACHUNG “Little Moon”



The kids in my village try to beat me up because I am blind, but I fight back, I have no fear.



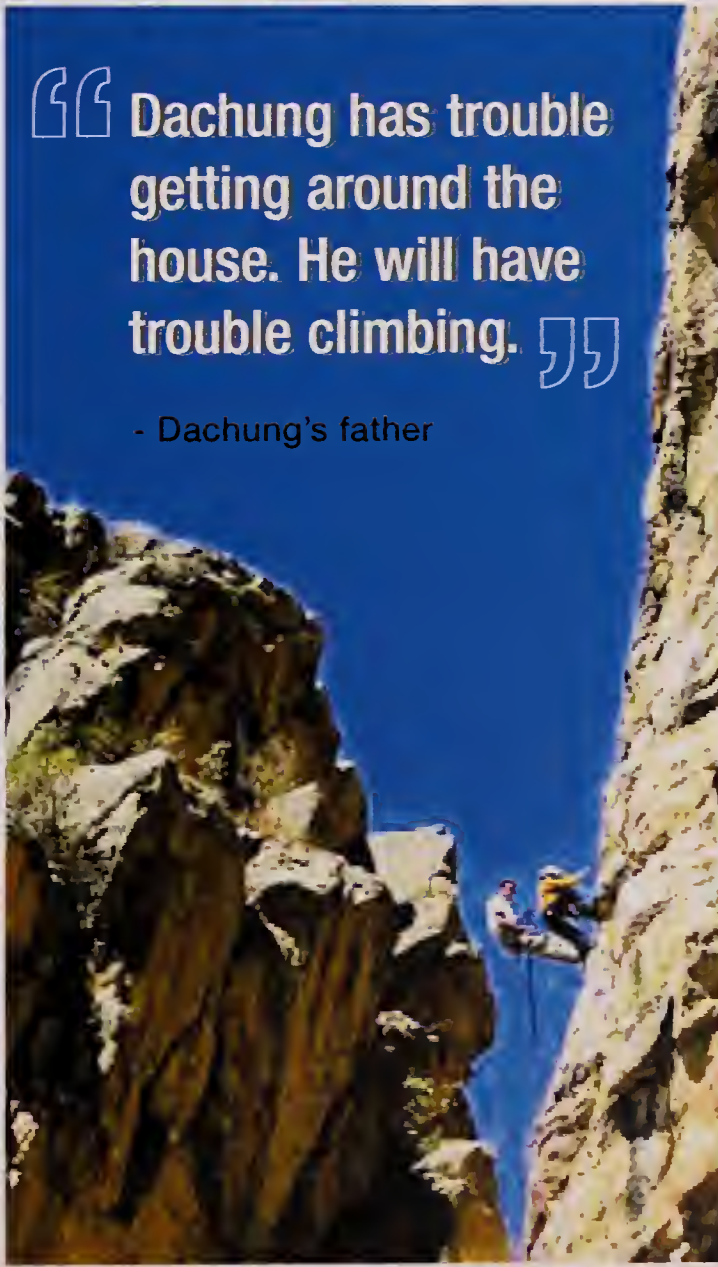
- Dachung



Dachung has trouble getting around the house. He will have trouble climbing.



- Dachung’s father



A full-page photograph of a hiker with a backpack and trekking poles walking on a trail towards a snow-capped mountain. The hiker is in the lower foreground, seen from behind, wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The trail is a narrow path through a field of low-lying green and yellow vegetation. In the background, a large, rugged mountain with significant snow cover rises against a pale sky. The overall scene is one of a peaceful outdoor hike.

“ When someone describes a beautiful scene to me, I can’t translate that into a sense of beauty. What I like is that somebody took the time to describe what’s moved them and I feel a great connection with that person. ”

- Erik Weißenmayer



“Lhakpa Ri is 23,000 feet.

There is no peak higher than that outside of the Himalayas.”

- Michael O'Donnell, Expedition Safety Consultant

“Frost bite is like a badge of honour for climbers. They sit around and show each other their missing body parts. What if something happens to the children's' fingers? The fingers are their eyes!”

- Sabriye Tenberken

“What I figure is you guys really want to go up there, so you play it down. You say the weather's gonna be fine. And I think it's not just fine!”

- Paul Kronenberg

“We got problems. Kyila has cerebral edema. Possibly Sonam Bhuntso too. And Tashi's bumbling around totally out of it.”

- Jeff Evans, Expedition Team Medic

“I wasn't afraid to go blind and see darkness. I was afraid to be swept to the sidelines and be forgotten, to be obsolete.”

- Erik Weihenmayer

“ The best and most beautiful
things in the world cannot
be seen or touched.
They must be felt with the heart. ”

- Helen Keller



BLINDSIGHT



BLINDSIGHT

“The fear comes when I’m reaching out into the darkness hoping and praying I’ll find what I’m looking for. It’s when I reached out that I found what I was seeking.”

- Erik Weihenmayer

Producer:

Sybil Robson Orr
Robson Entertainment
117 Wardour Street
London W1F 0UN
United Kingdom
Office: +44 (0)207 437 1700
US Mobile +1 310 804 8800
UK Mobile: +44 (0)7767 307 586
sarobson@gmail.com

Sales Agent:

Robbie Little
The Little Film Company
12930 Ventura Blvd. #822
Studio City
CA 91604
Office: 818 762 6999
Fax: 818 301 2186
Mobile: 310 567 8356
robbie@thelittlefilmcompany.com

Marketing Strategist:

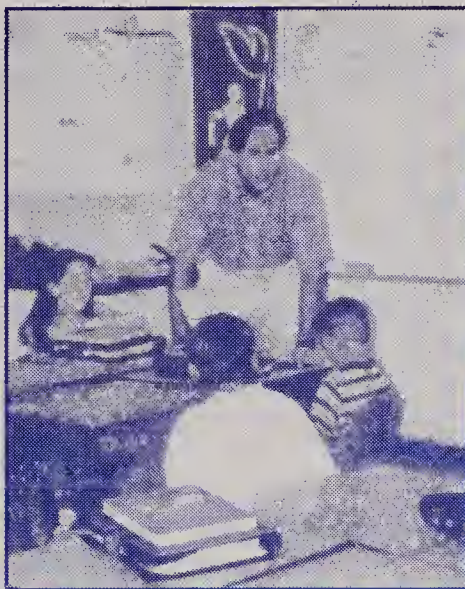
Mia Bays
Flat 1
2 Whitfield Street
London
W1T 2RB
United Kingdom
Tel +44 (0)207 323 2895
Mobile: +44 (0)7770 594682
info@miafilms.co.uk

Clay Epstein

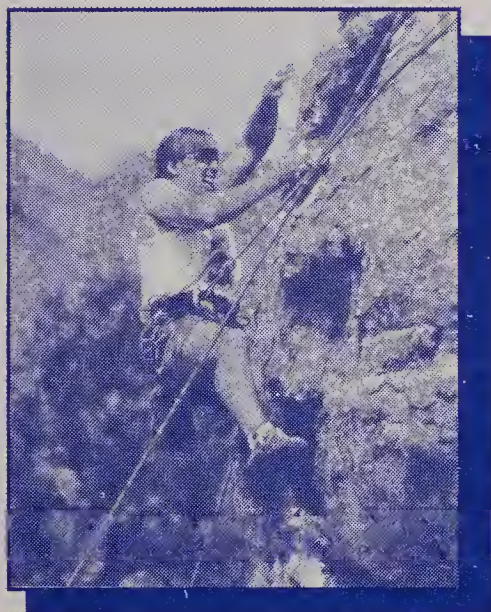
Mobile: 818 426 6359
clay@thelittlefilmcompany.com

Introducing
ERIK WEIHENMAYER

“Blindness is an incredible adventure which presents me with exciting challenges every day of my life.” □



Teaching, Phoenix Country Day School



Rock Climbing, Joshua Tree

“This climb is all about the human spirit and the simple fact that we cannot let obstacles steer us away from the dreams of our lives.” □



21st and final day, Mt. McKinley

ERIK WEIHENMAYER

- Born in 1968 with retinoscheses, legally blind but some sight; at age 13, totally blind.
- Graduated from Weston High School, CT, in 1987. Wrestling captain, represented Connecticut in National Freestyle Wrestling Championships in Iowa. Featured as high school wrestler on ABC's *20/20* with Barbara Walters.
- Named Connecticut's Most Courageous Athlete in 1987.
- First blind person to trek 50-mile Inca Trail into Machu Picchu (1987).
- Graduated from Boston College in 1991. Received a Master's Degree in Middle School Education from Leslie College (1993).
- Trekked with Yali tribesmen in the highlands of Irian Jaya (1989); in the Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan during Gorbachev's overthrow (1991), and across the Batura Glacier in the Karakoram Mountains of Northern Pakistan (1993).
- Teacher at Phoenix Country Day School in Phoenix, AZ (1993-1997).
- The climber in the award-winning public service advertisement of the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), scaling 600' vertical rocks at Joshua Tree, CA (1994).
- Trustee of the Arizona Recordings for the Blind (1994 - 1997); work on behalf of the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB).
- Certified skydiver and scuba diver.
- Summited Mt. McKinley, at 20,320', North America's highest peak, on June 27, 1995; climb sponsored by AFB. Featured on *NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw* and *Today with Katie Couric*; honored at Senate reception in the Capitol.
- Carried Olympic Torch through Phoenix in April 1996.
- Selected for the first annual Distinguished Arizonan Award by the Governor's Council; Gene Autry Award (1996).
- Inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, received its first Medal of Courage in May 1996.
- Scaled Yosemite's famed 3000' rock face El Capitan, tallest exposed monolith in the world.
- Climbed second continental summit, Kilimanjaro (1997); married at 13,000'.
- Winner of ESPN's 1997 ARETE Award for courage in sports.
- Advisory Board, World T.E.A.M. Sports.
- Featured on *Inside Edition*, *Meet the Duchess*, *Good Morning America*, *People* magazine, *Biography* magazine.

In the fall of 1994, Erik Weihenmayer and his rock-climbing partner decided to climb Alaska's Mt. McKinley, North America's highest and most dangerous peak. Wanting to make this more than a personal achievement, they approached the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), which chose to sponsor AFB HighSights '95 to dramatize the capabilities of blind people. On June 27, 1995, after 19 days fighting temperatures plunging to -50°F and winds gusting to 100 mph, Erik and his climbing team stood on top of America's summit.

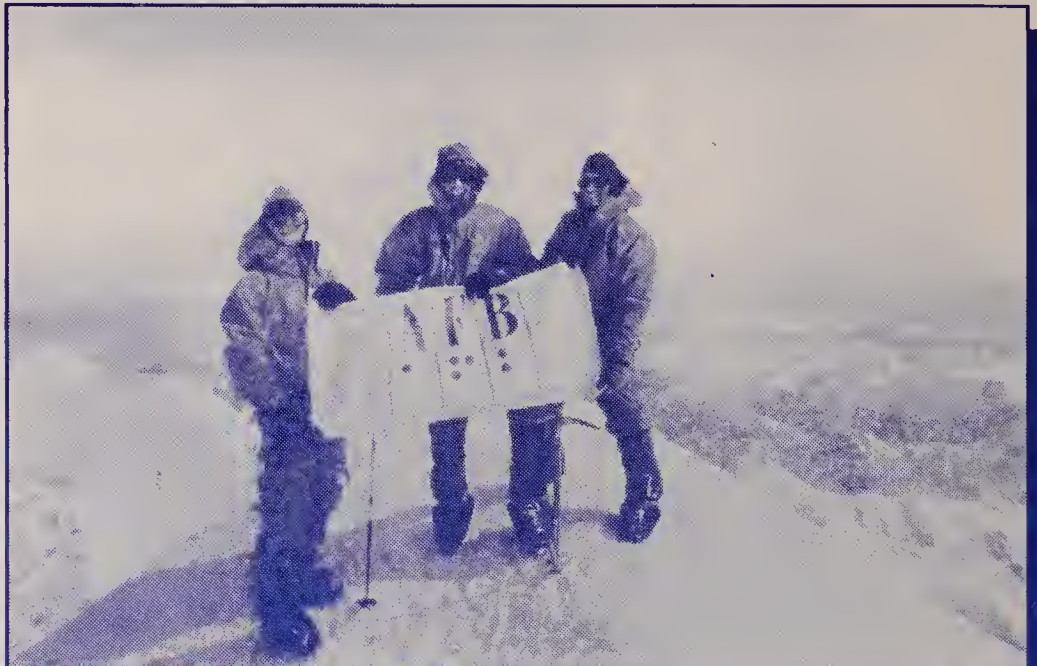
Coverage of AFB HighSights '95 was extensive, including *NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw* ("American Closeup"), *Today* with Katie Couric, *Regis and Kathie Lee*, CNN's *Sporting Life*, ESPN, *Sports Illustrated*, and *NBC Olympic Preview*.

Erik is an inspiring speaker who draws from his rich experiences trekking into remote cultures around the world and from challenges he has faced at home. He shares the mindset he has used in reaching for goals well beyond what others thought possible: "With preparation, we are all capable of pushing ourselves far beyond our perceptions of our own limitations, and even farther beyond those which others set for us." Prudent risk taking and teamwork are also critical to his impressive achievements, but Erik claims to have learned most from those times when he failed . . . at first.

Future climbs include: Aconcagua, the highest peak outside of Asia, his third continental summit; continental summits in Europe (Elbrus), Antarctica (Vinson), and Australasia (Carstensz Pyramid); Weeping Wall and Polar Circus, famous 3000' frozen waterfalls in Alberta; and Cho Oyu, Nepal/Tibet, 6th highest mountain in the world (26,750').

Erik is a frequent speaker at management/employee meetings of Fortune 500 companies; national non-profit conventions, schools, churches, and community organizations. Videos are available on request. Erik is writing a book about the life experiences which shaped his adventurous spirit, which should be published in 1999.

"I came to know that blindness would often be a nuisance, would sometimes make my life more difficult, but would never be a barrier in my path."



Erik Weihenmayer, center, on the summit of Mt. McKinley with the AFB HighSights '95 ascent team.

The American Foundation for the Blind — to which Helen Keller devoted over 40 years of her life — is the largest organization in the U.S. serving the needs of the nation's 4.3 million blind and severely visually impaired people. Celebrating its 75th anniversary in 1996, AFB is the preëminent producer of instructional materials for teachers of the blind, the leading publisher of non-medical books on blindness, the most visible advocate on legislative issues facing the blind, the creator and still major producer of Talking Books, and the primary national resource on information for and about the blind.

For further information about speaking engagements for Erik, please contact:

Ed Weihenmayer
1543 Beachwalker Road
Amelia Island, FL 32034
(904) 321-1938

Liz Greco
VP, Communications
American Foundation for the Blind
11 Penn Plaza, Suite 300
New York, NY 10001
(212) 502-7614